

## [Miss Maloney]

Coryl Moran April 17, 1936 Miss Maloney / Sun Prairie

The first census was taken in 1842. The total population was 120.

The census was taken in this way:—————

CharlesBird

2 males

2 females

In 1844 a postoffice was granted the village . Wm. Angell being first post master. Postage on letters to New York was 25[¢?] and the shortest distance was 6 1/4[¢?]. It was not required to be pre-paid, but might be paid at either end of the route. There were no postage stamps or envelopes. The amount of postage was marked by the post master on the letter which was folded and sealed with sealing wax.

In 1858 the Chicago, Milwaukee and Western R.R. line extended to Sun Prairie and Columbus. Sun Prairie was then one of the largest and most flourishing grain markets in the state. The wheat had to be carried into the mill one bag at a time. Some of the farmers started from home at two o'clock in the morning to be first at the elevator. The line of wagons loaded with grain would often extend from the elevator for several blocks, waiting their turn. The old "American Horse Barn" was on Main St., but when the railroad came, it was moved to where the storage warehouse (Klube tans) stands, and remained there until 1923 when the warehouse was built.

The early settlers were firm believers in public school systems. About 1841, one of the county commissions obtained \$90.00 for building a school house which was constructed

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of burr oak logs. It was 16 foot square. The first teacher received \$15.00 for his services.  
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For ten years t is log house did uty as school house, church, lecture room, and town [Hall?] for the community. Then a one story schoolhouse was built. About this time the old academy was built with funds supplied by district treasurey. Itsp Its purpose was to help out with upper grades in academy, because of crowded conditions in the stone school house. This old academy was used by Baptists for church until their's was built. The old academy was later moved off the lot and used for a barn.

The Methodist church was organized in 1842. The members worshipped in school and in homes until 1867 when the brick church was built.

The Congregational Church was organized in 1846. Its members also worshipping in the homes until 1859 when their first church was built.

The first Catholic Church was organized in 1863. It has the large[?] following in the village. Itschurch, priest's home, convent, parish, hall and school are fine, well-kept buildings.

The German M. E. Church was founded in 1874.

The first attempt at merchandising was in 1842 when David Butterfield opened a small store.

The American House, the first hotel, was built in 1850 by Mr. Harwick. Mr. Wm. Angell built a hotel in 1850. The second floor of the store next door th [this?]hotel was used as a dance hall and there was an enclosed bridge over the street from hall to hotel so the

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dancers could walk across to the [?] hotel for supper. Some of the villagers said that when that old bridge was removed, it meant that the passing of the old Sun Prairie.

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On some of the old dance invitations printed in 1853; the management stated that "Floor Managers Will be selected from the floor." ————"Tickets including dance, supper and horse-keeping, —-\$2.00."

Josiah Hale of New York City donated 13 acres of land to Sun Prairie for a cemetery. The Sun Prairie Association was formed in July, 1850. The wife of George Pine was the first to be buried there.

The first newspaper printed was called the "Enterprise". Dake and Smith were the publishers. The first copy was edited in 1868. According to this paper, there were two trains daily,— one leaving at 5:45 A.M. and arriving at 9:45 P.M. Farm product prices were quoted:—Eggs,-10¢

Butter,-25¢ a lb.

Pork and Ham,-12¢ a lb.

Beef,-10¢ a lb.

The first edition of the Countryman was published on December, 1877.

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It seems, very appropriate that the site of the home of [the?] first white settler and the place where the first village election was held should be given to Sun Prairie for a Library and Community House.

Miss Maloney has copies of the early newspaper of Sun Prairie,— April 24, May 22nd and June 26th., 1868. In these papers are some interesting little items.